

LAW AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

INQUIRY INTO THE PROVISIONS OF THE VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING BILL 2021

Supplementary questions: Dr. Michael Casey, Director, PM Glynn Institute, Australian Catholic University and Dr. Cris Abbu, Policy and Projects Manager, PM Glynn Institute, Australian Catholic University

Answers are to be returned to the Committee secretariat by 28 January 2022.

1. In addition to your submission and the evidence at the hearing on 13th December, is there any further information, data or analysis that you would like to provide to the committee regarding the provision or lack of provision of palliative care in New South Wales, particularly with respect to the rural, regional and remote parts of the state?

There was a question during the hearing about the reliability and validity of our data. We'd like to explain our reply during the hearing and clarify a few points.

Our data came from the Australian Institute for Health and Welfare and the Department of Health. However, at present these data are not published or presented in any report, except in our submission paper. This is because in general reports on palliative care services involve Australia-wide data or national data. Although one might see information by state in some cases, no state-level data are published regarding palliative care workforce.

The state-level data that we presented in our submission were the result of a data process called extraction. This involved getting clearance from AIHW to drill down the national data to its rawest level using AIHW's Table Builder. Drilling down the national data to its rawest meant that we were able to extract state (NSW)-level data. This allowed us to see state level figures of palliative care workforce in NSW.

Hence, the credibility of our finding relating to the absence of palliative care services in the regions, especially in outer and remote areas of NSW, is supported by highly valid and reliable data that went through a rigorous process of extraction.